

Message Text

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53

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /066 R

DRAFTED BY USOAS:NTSHAFT:AVG

APPROVED BY USOAS:REWHITE

ARA/PAN:DWAGNER (DRAFT)

ARA/AND:JALLITO (DRAFT)

ARA/BC:RSPACE (DRAFT)

ARA/ECA:FRONDON (SUBS)

----- 097959

R 030211Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS, PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL TOLL INCREASES

REF: QUITO 6107 (NOTAL), LA PAZ 6839

1. ON AUGUST 24-25 THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CONSULTATION
AND NEGOTIATION (SCCN) OF OAS MET AT REQUEST OF ECUADOR,
BOLIVIA, CHILE AND PERU TO CONSIDER IMPACT OF PROPOSED
PANAMA CANAL TOLL INCREASES. (WIRE REPORT CITED REFTL
QUITO INCORRECTLY NAMED ARGENTINA INSTEAD OF PERU AS ONE
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OF FOUR CONVENING COUNTRIES.) AT MEETING THOSE FOUR

COUNTRIES MADE STATEMENTS ABOUT EFFECT ON THEIR TRADE OF HIGHER CANAL TOLLS AND SUGGESTED THAT IN SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT US SHOULD EXCUSE THEM FROM FULL BRUNT OF INCREASES. U.S. EXPLAINED THAT PANAMA CANAL COMPANY REQUIRED BY LAW TO BE SELF-FINANCING, AND PROPOSED TOLL INCREASES REFLECT HIGHER OPERATING COSTS. WE AGREED TO PASS ON CONCERNS OF OTHERS TO USG. NO OTHER COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED IN DISCUSSION. PANAMA DID NOT ATTEND.

2. PANAMA CANAL COMPANY GOING THROUGH FORMAL HEARING PROCEDURE ON ITS PROPOSED TOLL INCREASES, WITH DECISION EVENTUALLY REQUIRING PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL. SOUTH AMERICAN WEST COAST COUNTRIES HAVE GONE THROUGH SIMILAR OAS EXERCISE

IN PAST TOLL INCREASE CASES. U.S. POSITION IS TO ACKNOWLEDGE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY OTHER OAS MEMBER COUNTRIES. WE DO NOT WISH TO BROADEN DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER, AND YOU SHOULD RESPOND TO ANY UNAVOIDABLE INQUIRIES IN LOW KEY FASHION. KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, PN, PQ, EC, BL, CI, PE, OAS
To: QUITO LA PAZ
Type: TE
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